

**REMARKS**

The claims are subject to an election requirement between two groupings:

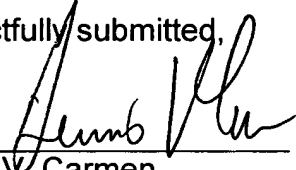
- a) those claims directed at introducing the warm pellets from a step of pelletizing into a stream of water having a temperature between 50° C and 90° C,
- b) those claims directed to introducing the warm pellets from a step of pelletizing into a gas stream.

In response to the requirement for election of species under 35 USC § 121, Applicants elect the invention directed toward group A, those claims directed towards introducing warm pellets from a step of pelletizing into a stream of water having a temperature between 50° C and 90° C. Claims corresponding to this election requirement are claims 2-10. Claims 1 and 17-18 are generic. This election is made without traverse.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned with any questions regarding the prosecution of this application.

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Respectfully submitted,

  
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March 22, 2005  
Date

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)**

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop Amendment, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Karen L. Taylor  
Karen L. Taylor

3/22/2005  
Date